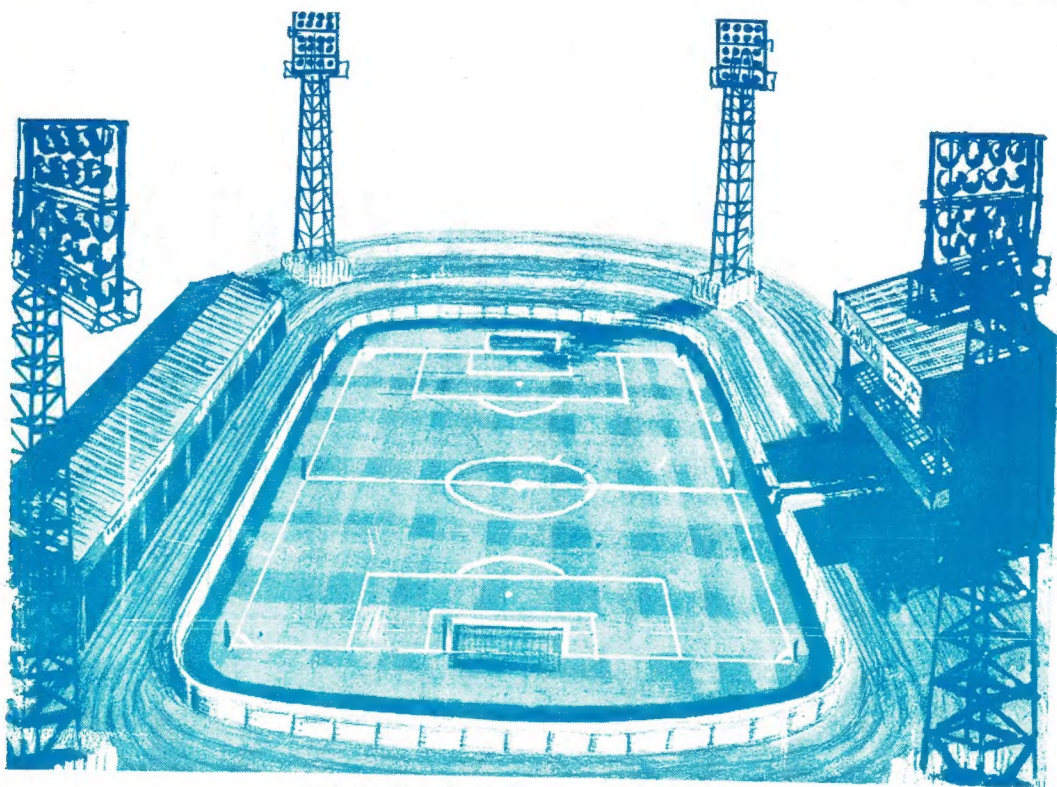


ATHLETIC

WIGAN

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME — 15p



FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

v.

CREWE ALEXANDRA

TUESDAY, 26th DECEMBER, 1978 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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OUR VISITORS

Today we extend a warm welcome to the players, officials and directors of Crewe Alexandra F.C.

The club with possibly the most romantic sounding name in League football, owes its existence to a cricket club formed in 1866, whose members at first played a sort of handling game, but in 1877 decided it should be a soccer club.

The "Alexandra" is a well-known local house, favoured in earlier days by those connected with the railway works which have been the mainstay of Crewe's livelihood for a long number of years.

Like all other clubs it was first an amateur organisation and did not adopt professionalism until 1893. The club was admitted to the Second Division of the Football League in 1892, but in 1896 it failed to get the necessary support so had to play elsewhere. Here it wandered: Lancashire League, Birmingham League,

North Stafford League, Manchester League, Lancashire Combination and the Central League. Regular applications for the Football League failed until they became founder members of the newly formed Division Three North in 1921.

The home of the "Alexandra" is Gresty Road, appropriately quite near the Railway Station, and the capacity of the ground is around the 18,000 mark.

Until recently they have had as their manager, the ex-Manchester United Irish goalkeeper and a survivor of the Munich air disaster Mr. Harry Gregg. Harry has now returned 'home' to Old Trafford to become what is a rather unique appointment "goalkeeper coach." We wish him luck in his new appointment. We also extend our best wishes for success to his successor — Warwick Rimmer the ex-Bolton player.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 4

Saturday, 30th December, 1978 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

WIGAN ATHLETIC v. ALDERSHOT

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

Saturday, 6th January, 1979 — Kick-off 2-0 p.m.

Wigan Athletic Reserves v. Morecambe Reserves

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FROM THE MANAGERS DESK

Today we welcome Crewe Alexandra to Springfield Park. A recent managerial change has seen the ex-Bolton star, Warwick Rimmer, take over from Harry Gregg who has gone to Manchester United as Goalkeeping Coach. Warwick hasn't had the best of luck so far, so he will be hoping for a change of luck in the coming year.

CUP FAILURE

Our Cup match with Bury was a sad anti-climax to our wonderful recovery on the Saturday, and I was indeed sorry for the thousands of supporters who made the trip to Gigg Lane.

To be frank, we never really got off the ground, and I certainly do not feel the game was a true reflection of the abilities of either side. A major factor in the result was the condition of the ground — and the relative footwear of each side. To be perfectly honest we were ill-prepared

and the type of boot Bury wore was ideal for the occasion. The speed and sure-footedness of the Bury players was first class on a really treacherous ground and I felt sorry for our lads trying to compete. However, every occasion has its lessons and we will not be found wanting again.

Again I can only reiterate that our feelings were for our supporters and, although we lost the match, our supporters certainly didn't, as we were 4-1 down.

AWAY FORM

We hope we have made amends by getting three points out of four in the Darlington and Halifax games. At going to press the Port Vale result is not known.

Enjoy today's game.

I. M. McNEILL.

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FACTS

Two clubs now in the Football League were once outvoted at the Annual General Meeting and spent a time in non-league football:

Gillingham, out in 1938, back in 1950
Newport, out in 1931, back in 1932.

The present Wigan Athletic club elected to the Football League in 1978, had no connections whatsoever with the Wigan Boro club who resigned from the Football League in 1931.

Since the formation of the Third Division of the Football League in 1921, 22 clubs have been admitted as follows:

1923—Doncaster, New Brighton;

1927—Torquay;

1928—Carlisle;

1929—York City;

1930—Thames;

1931—Mansfield, Chester;

1932—Aldershot, Newport;

1938—Ipswich;

1950—Colchester, Gillingham, Scunthorpe, Shrewsbury;

1951—Workington;

1960—Peterborough;

1962—Oxford;

1970—Cambridge;

1972—Hereford;

1977—Wimbledon;

1978—Wigan Athletic.

One of these clubs, Ipswich, are now in the 1st Division, and Cambridge in the 2nd Division, and three Workington, Thames and Nl. Brighton have gone out.

Five clubs in the 4th Division have at one time been members of the 1st Division—Grimsby, Huddersfield, Portsmouth, Northampton, Bradford City, and three of these teams have won the F.A. Cup — Huddersfield, Portsmouth and Bradford City.

Since the start of the season there has already been ten managerial changes in the 4th Division.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION IV

(up to and including 16th December 1978)

	Home						Away						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Wimbledon	20	9	1	0	21	8	3	5	2	14	13	30	
Reading	20	8	2	0	23	5	3	4	3	11	12	28	
Portsmouth	20	8	1	1	17	2	4	2	4	15	14	27	
Barnsley	19	5	2	2	16	8	5	4	1	12	5	26	
Aldershot	20	6	3	1	16	6	2	6	2	9	10	25	
Grimsby	20	6	2	2	19	10	4	2	4	12	11	24	
WIGAN ATHLETIC	20	6	0	3	14	9	3	4	4	8	10	22	
Bournemouth	19	5	2	3	15	9	2	4	3	5	5	20	
Stockport	20	6	2	2	16	5	1	4	5	12	18	20	
Port Vale	19	2	6	2	15	14	5	0	4	15	12	20	
Torquay	19	6	1	2	15	7	3	1	6	9	18	20	
Hereford	20	5	5	0	18	8	2	1	7	11	16	20	
Hartlepool	19	3	5	2	16	12	3	2	4	6	15	19	
York	19	4	2	3	10	10	4	1	5	9	15	19	
Scunthorpe	20	6	1	3	16	12	1	4	5	7	12	19	
Huddersfield	20	6	4	1	16	8	0	2	7	5	15	18	
Northampton	20	5	4	1	18	10	1	2	7	11	22	18	
Newport	20	3	3	4	12	14	3	3	4	13	15	18	
Bradford	19	4	2	3	16	12	4	0	6	10	19	18	
Darlington	20	3	4	3	11	8	2	2	6	10	18	16	
Doncaster	20	4	4	3	13	11	1	2	6	9	18	16	
Crewe	20	2	3	5	12	18	1	5	4	8	19	14	
Rochdale	20	2	3	5	7	14	0	3	7	4	21	10	
Halifax	21	1	3	6	5	14	0	2	9	9	24	7	

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Up to the time of writing these notes we have had a wonderful ten match run in league games — our record is as follows: played 10, won 6, drawn 3, lost 1; points 15. Of the ten games, five have been at home and five away. Should this form be maintained, then we must become serious contenders for a top four position.

When we were admitted to the Football League in June, we thought that a respectable position at the end of the season would be most satisfactory, but now who knows? Are we to emulate Hereford's achievement and gain promotion in our first

season? The directors and I am sure many of our faithful spectators now think the chance is there.

For the present situation thanks must go to the manager and team for the faith they had in themselves to compete successfully in League football. May I, therefore, on behalf of the Board, hand out our hearty congratulations on the results so far obtained and sincerely hope this success continues during 1979.

The spectators who have faithfully supported the team since the start of the season are also deserving of high praise. Support has been tremendous, both at home and away and their conduct has been immaculate. Many thanks to you all.

May I personally welcome the Chairman and Directors of Crewe Alexandra today, for their first ever Football League game against Wigan Athletic. I hope they will enjoy the game and accept our hospitality whatever the result.

As our last home fixture against Torquay was postponed through frost, today's game will be a welcome change after three journeys away from home.

ARTHUR HORROCKS.

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FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

TUESDAY, 26th DECEMBER, 1978 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

LINE-UP

Wigan Athletic	Referee : Mr. K. STYLES (Barnsley) Linesmen : Mr. D. Salt (Oldham) Red Flag Mr. N. L. Wilson (Morecambe) Yellow Flag	Crewe Alexandra
1 John Brown 2 Kevin Smart 3 Joe Hinnigan 4 Tommy Gore 5 Noel Ward 6 Dave Fretwell 7 Frank Corrigan 8 Jeff Wright 9 Peter Houghton 10 Mickey Moore 11 Ian Purdie 12 Derek Brownbill	FOR YOUR RECORD Result : Attendance : Scorers :	1 Kevin Rafferty 2 Neil Wilkinson 3 Gary Dulson 4 Ian Roberts 5 Paul Bowles 6 Paul Bevan 7 David Davies 8 Bernard Purdie 9 Peter Coyne 10 Steve Wilshaw 11 Jim Robertson 12 Dennis Nelson

TODAY'S REFEREE

KEITH STYLES (Barnsley). Started refereeing in 1949 and progressed through the Barnsley, Sheffield, Hallamshire C.F.A. and Yorkshire League to the Football League full list. He refereed a Football League Cup quarter-final in 1971, a semi-final in 1975, and in the same year an F.A. Challenge Trophy final at Wembley. He also lined a Spain v. Russia International in 1971, refereed the 1977 Charity Shield at Wembley, Liverpool v Manchester Utd. in 1978, Football League Cup semi-final and European Cup quarter-final.
A married man, he has two children, and is a headmaster. He is a qualified coach and takes an interest in coaching schoolboys. In addition, he likes golf, tennis and gymnastics.

LATICS LINE

by Nick Duxbury



Until now it has been an empty December for Latics fans, with a Boxing Day visit by Crewe the first home game of the month.

With the Torquay United match postponed because of frost and the F.A. Cup gap on Dec. 16th filled with an away trip to Halifax, today's festive meeting with the "Railwaymen" at Springfield Park gives Latics supporters a Christmas treat.

Hopefully, Latics will continue the celebrations with a victory against Crewe, who recently lost manager Harry Gregg—returning to Manchester United with special responsibility for goalkeeping.

With no cup glory to come, Latics need good League performances to prevent the season going flat.

At the start manager Ian McNeill said consolidation was the main aim, but to make the Club's first Football League season a real success, Latics must at least stay on the fringe of a

promotion place.

Football fans need the scent of victory, even if it is only a "whiff" to maintain their allegiance right to the bitter end. A tail-off in results, with Latics sinking to a mid-table place, would turn some fans into Saturday absentees — still backing Latics in spirit, but not where it is needed, through the turnstiles.

So the battle with Crewe has great significance, for a good display will help ring out 1978 on the right note and herald a successful New Year.

After following a top non-league side always involved in two or three cup competitions through to March, Latics fans must find the present "League only" situation a little strange.

But Latics can still have a big say in the Fourth Division. The fans want to be involved too, but only the team can make sure there is something to keep getting "worked-up" about.

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Wigan Athletic Reserves

1978

August—	F-A
8—Blackpool 'A'	H 2-1
15—Southport Res.	H 1-1
September—	
2—Everton 'A'	A 2-1
9—Chester 'A'	H 1-3
15—Tranmere R. Res.	A 0-0
6—	
13—Bradford City Res.	H 5-0
30—Liverpool 'A'	A 1-2
October—	
7—Rochdale Res.	H 2-2
14—Rochdale Res.	A 0-1
21—Carlisle Utd. Res.	H 2-0
27—Stockport County 'A'	A 8-0
November—	
11—Tranmere R. Res.	H 2-2
18—Crewe Alex 'A'	A 3-3
25—Manchester City 'A'	A 2-1
December—	
2—Blackpool 'A'	H
9—Port Vale Res.	H 3-1
13—Macclesfield T. Res.	H 5-1
16—Chester 'A'	A
26—	
30—Morecambe Res.	A

1979

January—	F-A
1—Oldham Ath. Res.	H (Mn.)
6—Morecambe Res.	H
13—Port Vale Res.	A
20—Manchester City 'A'	H
27—Macclesfield T. Res.	A
February—	
3—Bradford City Res.	A
10—Crewe Alex Res.	H
17—Manchester Utd. 'A'	A
24—Oldham Ath. Res.	A
March—	
3—Carlisle Res.	A
10—Stockport County 'A'	H
17—Bolton Wanderers 'B'	A
24—Bolton Wanderers 'B'	H
31—Wrexham Res.	A
April—	
7—Manchester Utd. 'A'	H
13—Southport Res.	A (Fri.)
15—Wrexham Res.	H
16—	
21—Liverpool 'A'	H
28—	
May—	
5—Everton 'A'	H

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